



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORMER INDEPENDENCE MAN SENTENCED FOR STEALING HIS BROTHER'S IDENTITY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a former Independence, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for stealing his brother's identity in order to make more than \$55,000 in purchases.

Lawrence Stuart Tuttle, 49, formerly of Independence, was sentenced by U.S. Chief District Judge Dean Whipple this morning to five years in federal prison without parole. The court also ordered **Tuttle** to pay \$46,425 in restitution. Graves noted that today's sentence marks an upward departure from the federal sentencing guidelines, which recommend a sentencing range of 30 to 37 months.

"Today's sentence reflects the severity of this crime," Graves said. "Identity theft is a growing economic threat in our society, and I will continue to aggressively prosecute so-called white-collar criminals."

On March 21, 2005, **Tuttle** pleaded guilty to identity theft. **Tuttle** admitted that he obtained a Missouri driver's license in the name of his brother on July 5, 2000. From July 12, 2000, through July 12, 2001, **Tuttle** used his brother's name, date of birth and Social Security number to make \$55,366 in purchases, including credit cards, a mobile home lease and two loans to purchase pick-up trucks. Among the credit card purchases, Graves said, **Tuttle** charged \$10,000 to pay a Wisconsin law firm for representation in his child support action.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Frances Reddis. It was investigated by the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow